

HONORING THE ASIAN PACIFIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Asian Pacific Development Center for its ongoing service to the growing population of Asian American and Pacific Islander residents throughout the state of Colorado and to celebrate its Annual Banquet in recognition of the Asian New Year, the year of the Fire Red Monkey.

The Asian Pacific Development Center is a role model for other communities and works to provide culturally appropriate and linguistically proficient wellness and lifestyle services to enrich the lives of our state's Asian American and Pacific Islander residents.

Originally created to serve Vietnamese refugees 35 years ago, APDC has grown to include a diverse list of communities.

Every day, the Center grants self-sufficiency to these residents so that they may better navigate our shared home.

I, in addition to many community leaders in Arapahoe County and Aurora, attend the Annual Banquet each year as tribute to APDC's efforts, and I am proud to have the opportunity to speak this year in honor of the celebration's 35th anniversary.

I applaud the Asian Pacific Development Center for continuing to empower our state's Asian American and Pacific Islander refugees and immigrants, and thus, for continuing to fight poverty and to address literacy, education, and employment in Colorado.

RECOGNIZING LISC JACKSONVILLE
FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Local Initiatives Support Corporation Jacksonville for its outstanding service to the Northeast Florida community through its transformative efforts to empower citizens and to build up the neediest neighborhoods.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a nationally known nonprofit that works with local leaders to invest in housing, health, education, public safety, and employment. This year marks the 15 year anniversary for its involvement in the Jacksonville community. Over the last 15 years LISC Jacksonville has leveraged almost a quarter of a billion dollars to create affordable housing and community development all while fostering financial stability within the Jacksonville community.

LISC Jacksonville's invaluable efforts within our local community from supporters across the country have turned out \$62.6 million in grants and loans, \$220.7 million in leveraged investments, and \$20 million for the Jacksonville property tax rolls from new homes developed within our community.

Much more than large dollar amounts, multiple areas in Jacksonville are building up an

infrastructure able to sustain and promote community development. Approximately 295 homes and 1,509 apartment units were built and 3,100 jobs were created. Tax credits helped to finance the first KIPP charter school of Florida, investments were made in the EverBank Stadium neighborhood, and a business incubator was established with the Beaver Street Enterprise Community.

Representing Northeast Florida, I have the privilege of interacting with and supporting the work of outstanding nonprofits such as LISC Jacksonville and its dedicated workers. The remarkable transformation of our community is proof that no neighborhood is outside the possibility of revitalization and redevelopment. I am proud that these devoted constituents call Jacksonville their home and I believe every community can experience similar success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of Congress to join me in recognizing LISC Jacksonville for its belief in holistic change, and its long-term commitment that will continue to create a flourishing community for so many people who call Jacksonville home.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR
DEBRA J. WILCOX

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Sergeant Major Debra J. Wilcox, an honored veteran that served our country with honor and distinction. I was saddened to hear about the passing of a daughter of Jacksonville. On behalf of the constituents of Florida's Congressional District Five we salute and pay tribute to SGM Wilcox.

Sergeant Major Debra J. Wilcox was born in Jacksonville, Florida. She volunteered for the U.S. Army and took the oath of enlistment on 19 August 1979 and subsequently completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She completed 35 years, 9 months, 19 days of service.

Her past assignments include: Information Management Specialist, Joint Staff, DOM; Administrative Sergeant, Defense Intelligence Agency; Command Sergeant Major, 436th Transportation Command; Command Sergeant Major, 3/318th MP OSUT; student at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Ft. Bliss, Texas; Administrative NCO, J-5; Training Chief Instructor, HQ/680th DIV; NCOIC DCSPER, 5115th Garrison Support Unit; Force Management NCO, 97th ARCOM; PAB NCOIC, 318th Reception Battalion; Test Administrator, MEPS Los Angeles; Mail Clerk, Fort Rucker, AL; Administrative Specialist, 43rd USA Artillery Detachment, Germany.

Sergeant Major Wilcox's military and civilian education includes: Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic and Advanced Non-commissioned Officer Course, Personnel, Administrative, and Training Management Courses, a graduate of the Sergeants Major Academy. She completed a double Master's in Interdisciplinary Studies and an MBA Degree followed with a number of Graduate Certificates.

Her awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1st OLC), Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service

Achievement Medal (3rd OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4th OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal (w/ Bronze Star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (w/ M, Silver H), NCO Professional Development Ribbon (w/Numeral 4), and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

As twice the Citizen Debra's civilian work includes The Aerospace Corporation, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and the Department of the Army Inspector General Agency.

Sergeant Major Wilcox is survived by her mother, Jean Walker, two sisters, Cheryl Adams, Deandrous Wilcox; four brothers, George Wilcox, Anthony Wilcox, Vaughn Wilcox, Joe Walker; Aunties; many cousins, Angela, Joy, nieces and nephews, great-nieces and -nephews, and friend John Jackson.

CELEBRATING THE INAUGURATION
OF THE BETTY RODRIGUEZ RE-
GIONAL LIBRARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the late Betty Rodriguez and inauguration of the state of the art Betty Rodriguez Regional Library named in her honor. The newly reconstructed 14,000 square foot library located in east-central Fresno features 25 computers, a 3-D printer, and robotics kits, making it Fresno County's newest, most technologically advanced library. The library also features a meeting room for 50, group study spaces, and a separate quiet reading room. The site on which the Betty Rodriguez Regional Library exists, is nearly double the size of its 40 year predecessor, and creates a significant advancement for the City of Fresno. This new library serves as a reminder to all of the life of Betty Rodriguez, and the legacy she created within the community through her selfless dedication to others.

Mrs. Rodriguez was an individual of outstanding character and throughout her career, achieved a great deal of success and impacted the lives of many. Mrs. Rodriguez was an inspiration to all, especially to students and young children, teaching them that through hard work and education, they are able to achieve success in their lives. Mrs. Rodriguez dedicated her life to serving as a role model for our youth by motivating them to dream big and to work hard. Demonstrating her strong commitment to our youth, Betty was a member of Friends of the Fresno County Library, and was a great supporter of the Boys and Girls Club of Fresno County, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, and the Special Olympics.

Public service was important to Mrs. Rodriguez, and she was very active in many community organizations. For example, Betty served on Fresno's Torreón Sister City Committee, a non-profit organization that supports the development of partnerships between U.S. cities and cities around the world. She also helped to launch the League of Mexican American Women in 1973 in order to help women in her community become more politically aware and to facilitate the contribution of